

Dictated over telephone 4 Nov 1980

Daniel K. Inouye

Issued Wednesday, 29 October, Washington, D.C.

As the first Chairman of the SSCI, I feel compelled to issue the following statement: Our national security posture is harmed by current ill informed accounts of the espionage case file against former CIA employee David Barnett which tend to represent it as a counter-intelligence failure. In fact, the FBI's detection in late 1979 of the clandestine communication between KGB officer Vladimir Popov and Barnett, which lead to Barnett's interrogation and subsequent indictment was a brilliantly executed operation which demonstrated that our counterintelligence personnel and the sophisticated technology they employ are out ahead of the KGB. This accomplishment should inspire the confidence of our citizens in our ability to uncover foreign espionage directed against us. The Barnett case is but one in a long series of efforts by hostile intelligence services to penetrate key units of our Government, specifically including sensitive bodies of the Legislative Branch. In the Spring of 1978, I briefed the SSCI regarding the threat of hostile penetration of our staff although, contrary to media reports, I did not do this with specific reference to the Barnett case. As our Committee's Staff Director has already explained, Barnett had, sometime before this, tried to obtain employment with our Committee but his application had, fortunately, been rejected in the normal course of business.